INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Office of the Chairman

DCI-IC-74-1107

30 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Graham, D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT   :   Secure Video Communications for the Intelligence
                    Community

1. Attached is a staff study (IHC-MM-1/74) which I have prepared
on the above subject. I request that it be brought to the attention
of the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. This is a companion piece to the communication transmitted
today by [   ] behalf of Director, NSA, to [   ]
PD/DCI/IC, on this same subject.   **25X1** (left) **25X1** (right)

3. The Executive Summary of my staff study embodies a statement
of the problem and its background and my Conclusions and Recommenda-
tions. In brief, I urge that the USIB Intelligence Information Handling
Committee (IHC) be charged by the DCI, USIB members concurring, to
"orchestrate" on their behalf the proliferating efforts individual
agencies are now undertaking to plan for future computer-driven ter-
minals and communications networks that can transmit video (graphics)
as well as written materials.

4. As Director, NSA rightly points out, if these individual efforts
are allowed to continue without overall guidance and general coordination
at the community level, we will end up with very expensive, incompatible
systems that actually handicap users by virtue of their differing cha-
racteristics, limitations and operating procedures.

5. The total subject is so diverse that there is room for several
groups to work on different aspects of the problem. What I argue for
most strongly is that those operating level technical investigations
be given community-level guidance at the outset, and that the results
of investigations at those levels go through a second stage of community-
level integration in order to prepare an overview of the total system
proposals that may be reviewed and approved by the DCI and USIB/IRAC.

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Attachment

Acting Chairman

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IHC-MM-1/74

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30 January 1974

SUBJECT: Secure Video Communications for the Intelligence Community

Executive Summary

1. Background. This study provides an overview of proliferating efforts by individual intelligence agencies to develop telecommunications networks and terminal equipment for secure, near-real-time dissemination by video of intelligence information and products. The present efforts, frequently, have the limitation of planning for dissemination of collected and processed data from single sources or sensors. To illustrate the present situation, this study describes some of the more significant efforts that have come to the attention of the USIB Intelligence Information Handling Committee's Support Staff. A sizeable additional number exists but is not catalogued here. Efforts summarized here are sponsored by CIA, NPIC, DIA, NSA, and the JCS and U&S Commands.

2. Problem. Planning and development efforts, conducted at the level of individual agency or sensor systems, have a serious risk of forcing on users of intelligence information and products an unnecessarily complex, expensive and non-compatible battery of single-sensor-oriented hardware operating in separate communications networks. Future major resource commitments -- and they will be very large in the coming years -- should be made on the basis of a comprehensive community plan for overall architecture of secure video communications. The subject, today, is at a sufficiently early stage that it is still susceptible to orderly, community-wide development, taking account of the spectrum of user needs as well as the special requirements of individual sensor systems. The opportunity to give overall guidance, setting parameters for individual efforts by community members so that they may interrelate most effectively, is time-limited, and if not taken soon can, effectively, be lost.

3. Conclusions:

a. Comprehensive, authoritative guidance on this subject, addressed to the total needs of the intelligence community and its customers, can come only from the DCI in consultation with USIB members. The President's Board of Foreign Intelligence Advisors (PFIAB) has encouraged the DCI, with respect to the total field of information handling, to delineate community objectives and develop an agreed community implementation plan, and the DCI has responded to the Board, acknowledging the need for planning for information flow in the context of on-coming collection programs.

b. Community standardization (to the extent practicable) of terminal equipment with video capabilities, and a community plan for communication netting of secure television are essential. However, the time available to take effective community action for overall dissemination and communication planning is limited. Individual sensor system managers are finding it necessary to proceed unilaterally in the absence of orchestration at the community level. This can be expensive and produce unnecessary complexities for users to be served by secure video communications equipment and networks.
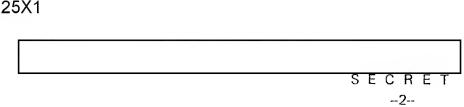
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c. A community mechanism should, within 60 days, present a full factual survey, descriptive of the current status of this problem and the proposed actions of individual organizations. Subject to DCI and USIB member guidance and approval, it should also draft a comprehensive concept and general plan to provide guidance parameters for orderly implementation by operating organizations within the community.

d. The USIB Intelligence Information Handling Committee (IHC) has an existing structure and body of experience which qualifies it to serve as a community forum and to carry out this planning task. No other community mechanism exists at this time with equivalent capabilities. To make the IHC an effective instrumentality, its responsibilities should be reaffirmed by the DCI and USIB members and purposeful action by this committee should be authorized and supported.

4. Recommendations. It is recommended that:

a. The USIB/IHC be charged now to conduct the factual survey and develop the comprehensive concept and general plan called for in paragraph 3c. above.

b. The USIB/IHC be confirmed as the community's continuing focal point, and charged with the following tasks relative to secure video communications, reporting regularly thereon to the DCI and the USIB:

(1) To develop and maintain a comprehensive overview of intelligence user needs relative to the use of video.

(2) To update and expand prior IHC work describing video terminal equipment capabilities and the potential for standardization for intelligence uses.

(3) To develop information on communications system capabilities relative to the operation of integrated, community-wide secure video networking.

(4) To maintain general contact with, and offer general guidance to, investigations in these premises that are conducted within their areas of special expertise by intelligence line organizations and other USIB committees.

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Copy No.'s   Name

1   DCI (Mr. Colby)
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